

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 17-37 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-10 have been withdrawn, claims 11-16 and 38-63 have been cancelled, and claims 24, 26 and 37 have been amended in this response.

In the Office Action mailed May 18, 2005, claims 17-23 and 25-38 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) Restriction to one of the inventions was required;
- (B) Claims 17-23 and 25-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,757,972 to Farnworth; and
- (C) Claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claim from which it depends.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on October 6, 2005, and requests that this paper constitute the applicants' Interview Summary. During the telephone conference, the present Office Action, Farnworth, claims 17, 26 and 32, and a proposed amendment to claim 26 were discussed. The Examiner agreed as follows:

- (1) The Section 102(e) rejection of claim 17 will be withdrawn because the claimed combination of elements including, *inter alia*, apertures that "extend through the test socket and have a cross-sectional dimension less than a cross-sectional dimension of the interconnect elements" distinguishes over the applied art;
- (2) The amendment adding "wherein at least a section of the support surface positioned to contact at least one of the interconnect elements is dielectric" to claim 26 patentably distinguishes this claim over the applied art; and
- (3) The Section 102(e) rejection of claim 32 will be withdrawn because the claimed combination of elements including, *inter alia*, a body having a shelf and a ball support member carried by the shelf distinguishes over the applied art.

A. Response to the Restriction Requirement

Applicants affirm the election of Group II, claims 17-38, without traverse.

B. Response to the Section 102(e) Rejection

Claims 17-23 and 25-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Farnworth. In light of the agreement reached during the October 6 telephone conference, the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 17, 26 and 32 should be withdrawn.

Claims 18-23 and 25 depend from claim 17; claims 27-31 depend from claim 26; and claims 33-36 depend from claim 32. Accordingly, the Section 102(e) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to their respective independent claims and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Independent claim 37 has, *inter alia*, features generally analogous to those included in claim 17. Accordingly, the Section 102(e) rejection of claim 37 should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 17 and for the additional features of this claim.

Claim 38 has been cancelled in this response and, therefore, the rejection of this claim is now moot.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 24 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claim from which it depends. Claim 24 has been so amended and, accordingly, the objection to this claim should now be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of

Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6465.

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Respectfully submitted,

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